



## State of Utah

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## **ARE UTAH COMMUNITIES PREPARED FOR WILDLAND FIRE?**

### **Western Foresters Release Status Report on Wildfire Protection Plans**

The Council of Western State Foresters has released a status report on the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) across the West. The report is a state-by-state summary of progress toward CWPP completion and community protection.

The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, in cooperation with federal and local partners, has now identified nearly 600 communities at risk. Currently 100 CWPPs have been completed and approved and approximately 50 additional plans are in progress.

Communities were given an opportunity to create wildfire protection plans when the National Fire Plan was enacted in 2001. With the passage of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act in 2003 communities were also given an unprecedented say in what projects will be funded to provide that protection. Communities work with local, state and federal fire management officials to determine the threat and determine what actions should be taken to reduce the danger.

"The report clearly shows that the West, including Utah, is making great progress toward having all of its communities at risk covered by the CWPP," said State Forester Joel Frandsen. "Our biggest problem is that due to development we continue to increase the number of communities at risk almost faster than we can help them."

The full report, *Community Wildfire Protection Planning in the West: A Status Report* is posted at <http://www.wflcweb.org/infomaterials/reports.php>. A list of Utah communities at risk can be found at [www.ffsl.utah.gov/firemgt/WUI/ComAtRisk/CommunitiesAtRisk.php](http://www.ffsl.utah.gov/firemgt/WUI/ComAtRisk/CommunitiesAtRisk.php).

The Council of Western State Foresters represents state forestry agencies whose responsibilities include delivery of technical and financial assistance, and wildfire and forest health protection services to non-industrial private forest landowners.

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